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# AGRICULTURAL LIBRARIES INFORMATION NOTES

## AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR INFORMATION SCIENCE, 39TH ANNUAL MEETING: AN OVERVIEW

Gerald J. Sophar  
Executive Officer, NAL

The American Society for Information Science (ASIS) held its 38th Annual Meeting in Boston during the week of October 26. Twenty-four hundred persons registered for the conference. Since the total membership of ASIS is 4,000 (it is a second society to most members) this was a remarkable attendance, especially during a time of very restricted travel budgets.

Richard Farley, Director of the National Agricultural Library (NAL) and six other staff members attended the conference. The consensus of these individuals was that the conference was an excellent one, exciting, and well managed.

It is extremely difficult to write about a very diversified meeting sponsored by a very diversified Society. It is even more difficult because ASIS is not as well known to the agricultural sciences community as it is to the medical, chemical, biological, and computer sciences communities. Perhaps it is not out of place to tell something about ASIS so that the comments on the meeting itself will have some foundation. The society, now in its 39th year of operation, amended its by-laws in 1952 changing from an organization of affiliated scientific and professional societies to one of individual as well as institutional members. NAL is one of more than eighty institutional members.

The purpose of ASIS is the improvement of the information transfer process through research, development, application, and education. It is concerned with the generation, collection, organization, interpretation, storage, retrieval, dissemination, transformation, and use of information with particular emphasis on the applications of modern technologies in these areas. The

diversity of its members' interests and professional backgrounds has helped to make it a forum for information specialists from such wide-ranging fields as computer science, librarianship, engineering, publishing, economics, communications, and all disciplines concerned with information handling.

The meeting theme was the "Information Revolution" — quite appropriate for the time and place. The conference was jam-packed with exciting technical and plenary sessions. There is no good and reasonable way to discuss all of the program within a limited space because ASIS programs inevitably cover so many subject areas, interests, issues, and concerns. At best, this report can only highlight key themes and programs, such as the keynote address by Dr. Daniel Bell, Professor of Sociology at Harvard University. Dr. Bell's thesis is that the main concern of science is no longer the post industrial society as a goods producing society. Rather, it must be concerned with a service and more specifically an information producing and information oriented society. He said, we do not have, but must develop, a national policy on information.

While there is no single Federal agency responsible for the making of national policy to support the needs of the scientific and technical information (STI) community, the National Science Foundation's Office of Science Information Service (OSIS) has tried to provide the necessary leadership. To this end it proposed a set of priority goals for the STI community "Toward National Coordination of Scientific and Technical Information through Research and Development," and requested ASIS, as the private sector organization most closely connected with all segments of the STI

community to review the projected priorities as set out by OSIS. ASIS surveyed the STI community through the ASIS chapter system, its Special Interest Groups (SIGS) and its liaison relationships with some thirty (30) professional organizations concerned with the utilization of scientific and technical information.

From the viewpoint of a government agency this was a high risk venture because the agency voluntarily asked for a peer group review of its planning document. From the viewpoint of the STI community, there was gratification because it was asked to participate. In fact, it responded strongly indicating its interests in (1) document access, (2) the notion of resource sharing, (3) public and professional education in and about information science, and (4) the transferability of research results. A task group of thirteen or fourteen individuals met in July at Columbia, Maryland (the writer was one of the group) and developed an outline of the most significant areas of concern of the STI community. Four papers were commissioned at that time to distill all of the comments regarding the suggested future responsibilities of OSIS. These papers were discussed with the authors at a plenary session on Wednesday afternoon, October 29.\*

NAL and the Federal Library Community have contributed heavily to the development and growth of ASIS. A recent president of the Society was John Sherrod (1971), former Director of the National Agricultural Library. The writer of this article was president in 1961 and has continued to be active in the Society's affairs ever since, most recently as chairman of its Long-Range Planning Commission. Another highlight of the meeting was the report of this two-year study by the Commission during the President's Open Forum. The Open Forum is a regular event at all ASIS Annual and Mid-year meetings. The Commission suggested thirteen goals and many short term objectives for the Society to attain.

The goals grouped under four categories: (1) Relationship of ASIS to Society, (2) Public Responsibilities of ASIS as a Professional Society (3) ASIS in Public Affairs, and (4) Relationship of ASIS to its members, are intended to provide guidelines and targets, which, if they could be attained, would accomplish or support the Society's mission.

The Commission's report will be published in the Society's publication, *Bulletin of the American Society for Information Science*, in order to obtain membership feedback and comment. These opinions and comments will be reviewed by an ad hoc task-group appointed by the ASIS president. After this review effort, it is expected that the Council of ASIS will take the necessary steps to implement the report.

Approximately one hundred organizations exhibited at ASIS, including NAL. They typified the variety of interests that ASIS represents. Publishers, national libraries, indexing and abstracting services, data base centers, microfilming organizations and like organizations were represented. Demonstrations of online systems and terminals were common place. The exhibit space was well laid out but as is so often the case not as convenient to the meeting rooms as one might have wished. The heavy meeting schedule also tended to slow down the anticipated traffic in the exhibit hall.

Finally, a word should be said about the Society's Award of Merits winner, Dr. Eugene Garfield, President of the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI). The citation on the Award of Merit reads as follows:

A pioneer in the field of information science, he has uniquely combined the seeking of a scientist, the knowledge of an information professional, and the acumen of a businessman. He has succeeded in developing and applying basic, user-oriented innovations to the solution of scientific and technical information problems. He has provided basic objective methodologies for the evaluation of scientific progress and the guidance of science policy. His pioneering work in the design and development of chemical notation systems, citation indexes, and *Current Contents* and literature delivery services has had a far-reaching impact on the everyday information and communication activities of the worldwide scholarly community and on the whole field of information science

In a sense this award describes ASIS and the Society's 39th Annual Meeting.

\*Fundamental Research. Vladimir Slamecka (Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta)  
Applied Research. Herbert S. White (Indiana University, Bloomington)  
User Education. Anthony Debons (University of Pittsburgh, Pa.)  
Coordination. Joseph Becker (Becker & Hayes, Inc., Los Angeles, Calif.)

## BIBLIOGRAPHY OF AGRICULTURE: RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

John Forbes  
National Agricultural Library

The *Bibliography of Agriculture* is a monthly index

to the world's literature on agriculture and allied sciences received by the National Agricultural Library. The *Bibliography* is published by the Oryx Press, Scottsdale, Arizona.

As presently constituted, it is the result of a number of changes both internal and external, beginning with the Library reorganization and the initiation in January 1970 of the CAIN (CATaloging and INdexing) system. In addition to providing tapes for the *Bibliography of Agriculture*, CAIN also provides page copy for the *Monthly Catalog*, data for online search services, and monthly sale tape to subscribers. Considerable effort was devoted in implementing this system to develop suitable administrative procedures to operate the input mechanism as it evolved from batched punched-card processing to the use of input terminals. This included several generations of processing worksheets, training courses, reorganization of staff, the development of input formats, and cooperation in the writing of CAIN input and user's manuals.

Macmillan Information, publisher 1970-74, and subsequently Oryx Press, 1975- have prepared the *Bibliography* only from the "Indexing", or "IN" part of the CAIN tapes, which in effect means that chiefly articles published in journals are listed. Newly cataloged monographs are omitted, but separately authored papers appearing in the non-journal literature, for example, papers published in conference proceedings, symposia, festschrift, or separately authored chapters of a book, may be included. In addition, Oryx Press began in 1975 to include with each issue a list of the abbreviated titles of publications from which papers were indexed for that particular issue. The publisher reports that this feature has been well received. Work has also been underway within the Library since the beginning of CAIN on the development of a succession of core lists of journal titles. We expect to publish a *List of Journals Indexed* (i.e., scanned regularly) which will include full bibliographic data.

Each article indexed is currently assigned to one of 70 numbered, broad subject categories, under which it will appear in each monthly issue. This category scheme was developed as an expansion from the 18 categories previously used. The possibility of assigning one work to more than one category, in the case of multidisciplinary subject matter, was recognized very early in the development of the CAIN system.

A number of indexes supplement and enhance the categorized listing. The most important of these is the subject index.

Separate sections of USDA, FAO, Experiment Station, and Extension Service publications, dropped

from the original *Bibliography of Agriculture* by Macmillan Information, were reinstated by Oryx Press beginning with the January 1975 issue. This was also made possible through the cooperation of NAL, which had identified this material by means of special coding of the machine-readable record.

Studies were also made at NAL, beginning in 1972, regarding the possibility of encoding bibliographies and reviews of the literature appearing in the journal literature, so that separate listings of this material could be produced, or special speeches performed. A number of tests were run, indicating that such coding could be used to advantage, and coding of bibliographies began in 1974, of reviews in 1975.

The personal author index was produced from NAL data with little change to previous efforts by both Macmillan and Oryx. The first corporate author index appeared in the January 1972 issue. This index was greatly expanded by January 1973 when the automatic addition of corporate author information to indexing records had become a working system, and Macmillan was able to triple the size, increasing access through this medium to the names of FAO, USDA agencies, agricultural experiment stations, and extension services. This feature is being retained by Oryx.

A geographic index to the *Bibliography of Agriculture* was begun with the February 1973 issue, after studies had shown that approximately 12% of the articles would benefit from such access, and that the amount of extra effort would be quite small. Codes were developed and an appropriate "field" code tagged for this data in the CAIN record. This index reflects the geographic aspect of the subject of an article. The format is name of country followed by citation number.

The utility of the *Bibliography of Agriculture* can be increased only if there is frequent interaction between the research community and the editor. Oryx Press has issued "user questionnaires for reference librarians" to all subscribers. Specific responses to these questions enable the publisher to determine how useful the various innovations have been or are likely to be. The National Agricultural Library conducts quality control studies of the printed product, sampling each issue as published, in order to observe, on a continuing basis, the completeness of subject entries in the indexes, the correctness of capitalization, topography and translation of titles, and the recentness of the literature cited.

## SUBSCRIBERS TO THE BIBLIOGRAPHY OF AGRICULTURE

The 1974 Cumulative Subject and Author Indexes to the *Bibliography of Agriculture* (v. 38, 1974) have been published by Macmillan Information. Inquiries should be submitted to the publisher at 866 Third Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10022

### WORLD FOOD NEEDS

The nation's most urgent agricultural research need is to find ways to grow more food while using less energy. That's the consensus of a group of farm and city food leaders and agricultural scientists who met in Kansas City, Missouri, July 9-11, 1975. Co-sponsors of the meeting were the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the National Association of State Universities, and Land Grant Colleges. The findings of the Conference relate to three broad categories: (1) human needs for food; (2) organization of resources to provide food; and (3) management of resources to provide food. The report of this working conference, *Research to meet U.S. and World Food Needs*, (see NEW PUBLICATIONS OF NOTE) summarizes these findings, which will be of value to everyone who makes or carries out policy affecting agricultural research — legislators, administrators, and scientists — as well as to members of the public concerned about food. Distribution of the report is being made to deans of agricultural colleges, directors of experiment stations and extension services, all participants and delegates, and to about 400 resource delegates. For further information on this meeting, please contact Ned D. Bayley, Office of The Secretary, Room 205, NAL Building, Beltsville, MD 20705; or, Maurice L. Peterson, Department of Agronomy and Range Science, University of California at Davis, CA 95616.

### NEW PUBLICATIONS OF NOTE

*Indian Poultry Industry Yearbook, 1975-76.* New Delhi, India. 370 p. \$4.50. Order from: Indian Poultry Industry Yearbook, 2c/34 New Rohtak Road, New Delhi 110005, India. All checks should be made out in favor of the *Indian Poultry Industry Yearbook*.

*Indice de Proyectos en Desarrollo en Ecologia Tropical. Index of Current Tropical Ecology Research. Vol. 1.* Arturo Gomez — Pompa and Armando Butanda C., Mexico D.F., Instituto de Investigaciones sobre Recursos Bioticos, 1975. \$6.00. Order from Instituto de Investi-

gaciones sobre Recursos Bioticos, A.C., Apartado Postal 70-268, Mexico 20, D.F.

*Note:* The second number will appear at the end of the year with the data from the questionnaires that were received late. It will also include all the corrections and additions to the projects of this issue.

*Research to Meet U.S. and World Food Needs; Report of a working conference sponsored by the Agricultural Research Policy Advisory Committee (ARPAC), Kansas City, Missouri, July 9-11, 1975. 2 v. Report of the Working Conference on Research to meet U.S. and World Food Needs; an Interpretive Summary. 7 p. Free as long as supply lasts. Request from: Mrs. Marion D. Harris, Office of the Secretary, Room 205, National Agricultural Library, Beltsville, MD 20705. Please include a self-addressed mailing label with your request.*

*Whereby we thrive: a history of American farming, 1607-1972.* John T. Schlebecker, Ames, Iowa, Iowa State University Press, 1974. 370 p. ISBN 0-8138-0090-0.

### AGRICULTURAL DATEBOOK

*January 18-24: American Library Association Midwinter Meeting.* Palmer House, Chicago, IL. For information: ALA, 50 E. Huron St., Chicago, IL 60611.

*January 20: Torrey Botanical Club, New York City.* Contact: Annette Hervey, New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, New York 10458).

*January 29-31: Special Libraries Association Winter Meeting, Netherland Hilton, Cincinnati, Ohio.*

*February 16-20: Effective Use of OCLC (Ohio College Library Center) Kent State University Library.* Primarily for mid-management/systems persons in institutions beginning network participation. Contact: A. M. Allison, University Library Services, Kent State University, Kent, Ohio 44242.

*March 9-10: National Federation of Abstracting and Indexing Services, Columbus, Ohio.* Christopher Inn, "Information-Dilemmas, Decisions, Directions". Contact: NFAIS, 3401 Market St., Philadelphia, PA 19104.

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY  
BELTSVILLE, MARYLAND 20705

December 31, 1975

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: Physical Security

TO: All Employees

Thefts of Government and personal properties throughout the USDA's Washington Complex, continue at an alarming level. Such thefts can be expected to increase.

An analysis of past thefts and data obtained by the Office of Investigation through our physical security surveys indicates that we, the victim, can do a great deal to protect our properties and deny the thief the opportunity to feed from our labors.

1. DO NOT leave valuable and easily removable properties in an unsecured state when leaving your office or place of duty.
2. DO NOT leave money in desks or similar unlocked locations. If you can "hide" it, a professional thief can "find" it.
3. DO NOT secure money and equipment in cabinets and then "hide" the key in the office or in an unlocked desk. Again, the professional thief can "find" it.
4. DO NOT leave your office unattended even for a few minutes, especially if personal or Government properties are in the room - wait until someone returns or lock the door where possible.
5. DO double check cabinets and desks to make certain they are locked at the close of business, particularly over the weekends where possible.
6. DO properly SECURE keys to secure cabinets and desks.
7. DO check USDA or other ID cards of strangers to your office or place of duty.

8. DO PROMPTLY REPORT any thefts, damages to property or suspicious persons or activities. REMEMBER!

To report thefts, damages to property, and suspicious persons or activities, call 43843.

Do your part. Protect your property, private and public.

*Richard A. Farley*

RICHARD A. FARLEY  
Director

SUPPLEMENT: December 1975

STAFF ACTIVITIES

Tatiana Tontarski accompanied a team of Soviet government agriculturists on a 3-week tour of the U.S. Grain Offices, as their interpreter. The Russians specifically requested her services.

Bob Birch has been selected as a contributor to The Encyclopedia Americana. Bob will write an article on Memory Systems. He has also been elected President of the USDA Spanish Club for 1976.

Kevin Keaney, as a member of the Committee on Lawyer Referral Services for the D.C. Bar, has submitted a report to the Bar on that subject.

Visitors to NAL

Dec. 2: Francis Bleiderman and Dr. Soergel, University of Maryland to discuss data processing.

Dec. 5: Thomas Donnelly and Dwayne Rogers, information coordinators, Office of Agriculture, Nutrition, and Health Education, AID.

A "Thank You" from the Loan Section

We here in the Loan Section wish to thank everyone who contributed to the fruit baskets, flowers, and other gifts that were purchased and sent to Patricia Condon, Head of Utilization. Mrs. Condon, is still convalescing at Providence Hospital, 1150 Varnum Street, N.E., Room 529, Washington, D.C. 20017.

Thank you again,

Ronald B. Young  
Supervisor Loan Section

PERIPATETIC STAFF

Dean Gamble attended the AGRIS Tropical Advisory Committee Meeting; Rome, Italy; November 29 to December 6, 1975.

Samuel Waters attended Management Council at Gettysburg, Pa.; December 3-5 1975.

Gerald Sophar met with ISI officials in Philadelphia, Pa.; December 8-9, 1975.

PERSONNEL ACTIONS

<u>APPOINTMENTS</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Section</u>	<u>Eff. Date</u>	<u>Grade</u>
Shirley Surprenant	Clk. Typ.	Office Dir.	12/8/75	GS-4
Delores Dustin	Lib. Techncn. (temp. P.T.)	FNIC	12/8/75	GS-4
Rita Leyba	Lib. Aid (temp. F.T.)	Office Dir.	12/8/75	GS-3
Tina Reardon	Stu. Aid	Reference	12/1/75	
Larry Ginyard	" "	Selection	12/8/75	

RESIGNATIONS

Michael Robinson	Stu. Aid	D.C. Branch	11/7/75
David Farabaugh	Admin. Asst.	Mgmt Services	11/22/75
Wesley Holser	Stu. Aid	FNIC	12/11/75

PROMOTIONS

Dana Reisse	Librn.	Proc.	12/7/75	GS-11
Elizabeth Whiting	"	D.C.B.	12/7/75	GS-9
David Ferguson	Compr. Programmer	C.A.	12/7/75	GS-11

REASSIGNMENTS

Tatiana Tontarski	TIS	D.C.B.	12/7/75	GS-11
Mary-Stuart Mellom	Librn	Catalog	11/9/75	GS-11
Sue Bull	TIS	Catalog	11/23/75	GS-7

TERMINATION OF APPOINTMENT

Margaret Maestas		OD	12/19/75	GS-4
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LIBRARY EMPLOYEES ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY  
SPECIAL MEETING REGARDING PARTY

NOV. 24, 1975--Special meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 9:50.

Joyce Myers, chairwoman of the "Basket for the Needy" Committee, reported on the progress of the project. Joyce asked LEAC to approve giving turkeys and baskets to two needy families instead of one. LEAC voted approval.

A catered Christmas party has been proposed. Braun's (who catered the NAL Symposium in September) submitted at the chairman's request three menus for LEAC's consideration. Prices for food were around 5.50 each, with additions for beverages, service, table settings, etc., bringing estimated cost per person to about \$2 more.

LEAC decided to take a survey of the staff to determine price ranges acceptable, amount of willingness to participate in a staff-prepared party, degree of support for proposed graduated ticket prices with voluntary subsidy of costs not made up by ticket sales, etc. Outcome of the survey will determine kind of party and extent of staff preparation needed.

It was also proposed (i.e., suggestions to the Chairman) that as much preparation time as possible be done after working hours, especially decorating.

LEAC decided to buy an artificial Christmas Tree for this and future parties.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Joyce Myers  
Wei Ping Laio  
Joe Swab  
Tom Jones  
Marianne Davies  
Carl Younger

Sharon Crutchfield  
Janet Strickling  
Melody Snare  
Mary Greenfield  
Harry Kemp

MEMBERS ABSENT

Iris Few  
Marian Sullivan  
Bill Thies

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE ON DEC. 3, 1975 AT 9:45.

DEC. 3, 1975--The meeting was called to order at 9:50.

The agenda and minutes of the November meeting were approved.

Joyce Myers reported that two large baskets went to two families;

one within the library and one outside the library. A separate report and expression of thanks will be prepared for inclusion in the supplement to ALIN.

As a result of the LEAC survey it has been proposed to Dr. Farley, and he has approved, that LEAC hold a Holiday Party in the lobby on December 19th, from 2:00 to 4:30. There will be no charge; staff will prepare desserts, appetizers, and snacks, and donations will be accepted to cover additional costs, such as beverages and table ware. All DSAD, PVPO, and other personnel working in the NAL building, NAL employees, their families and dates, and patrons who are in the library that afternoon are invited.

Decoration of lobby will be coordinated with official decorating by Miss Moran and Mr. Thies. The LEAC tree will be decorated at 4:30, Monday the 15th. The lobby will be decorated until January 5, 1976. Bill Thies has been designated as the Decoration Chairman.

Because of Iris Few's illness, the Cafeteria Committee Report is postponed until January.

In order to satisfy the provisions of the LEAC by-laws for elections, Mr. Swab suggested that the roster of employees be divided up into groups of 15, following section lines as closely as possible, with each group nominating and electing its own representative. In this manner it is hoped to solve the problem of who represents whom. LEAC approved the proposal. An election committee consisting of Mr. Kemp, Mr. Swab, and two additional persons to be appointed from the staff, will obtain nominations and conduct elections in January. The election committee will canvas new members to obtain nominations for LEAC officers in the new term prior to the February meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Janet Strickling  
Sharon Crutchfield  
Melody Snare  
Joyce Myers  
Marianne Davies

Tom Jones  
Carl Younger  
Bill Thies  
Marian Sullivan  
Joe Swab  
Harry Kemp

MEMBERS ABSENT

Iris Few  
Mary Greenfield  
Wei Ping Laio

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON JAN. 7 AT 9:45, ROOM 1402C.

*Janet Strickling*

Janet Strickling, LEAC Secretary



